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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/776,080 | 02/11/2004 | Shane Record | WBELT-007XX | 2376 |

7590 10/14/2005

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| EXAMINER |
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BIDWELL, JAMES R

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3651

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/776,080 | Applicant(s) RECORD, SHANE | |
| | Examiner James R. Bidwell | Art Unit 3651 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-12, 14, 15, 17-23, 25-27, 29, 30, 32-39, 41-43, 46 and 47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 13, 16, 24, 28, 31, 40, 44, 45 and 48 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14, 15, 17-23, 25-27, 29, 30, 32-39, 41-43, 46 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Peterson (U.S. Patent 3,494,456).

Peterson shows a hanger portion 34 having a horizontal length and at least one hinge portion having a first section disposed at an angle A1 relative to the hanger portion. Also shown is a second section disposed at an angle at least approximately 180 degrees relative to a longitudinal axis of the first section. The second section of the hinge portion is sized and shaped to fit around at least a portion of an adjacent link. Attached is a marked up copy of Figure 2 of Peterson showing the claimed elements.

Re claim 2, the hanger portion 34 includes a horizontal section.

Re claim 3, the angle A1 is shown as being U-shaped.

Re claim 4, the embodiment in Figure 4 shows a more V-shaped portion.

Re claim 5, a trapezoidal shaped portion is also shown.

Re claim 6, Figure 3 clearly teaches having end 24 at a distance less than the thickness of a cross-section thickness of the hanger portion.

Re claim 7, shown are two legs with an angle A1 between them.

Re claim 8, see Figure 2.

Re claim 10, this appears to be shown in Figure 3.

Re claims 11 and 12, both U and V shapes are anticipated by the Figures.

Re claim 14, a flat carry surface is shown.

Re claim 15, the adjacent links are all in the same plane.

Re claim 17, as per above in particular claim 6.

Re claim 18, as per claim 2 rejection.

Re claim 19, as per claim 3 rejection.

Re claim 20, as per claim 4 rejection.

Re claim 21, as per claim 5 rejection.

Re claim 22, as per claim 7 rejection.

Re claim 23, as per claim 8 rejection.

Re claim 25, as per claim 10 rejection.

Re claim 26 and 27, as per rejection of claims 11 and 12.

Re claim 29, as per claim 14 rejection.

Re claim 30, as per claim 15 rejection.

Re claim 32, the links are able to rotate relative to one another.

Re claim 33, as per claim 6 rejection.

Re claim 34, as per claim 2 rejection.

Re claim 35, as per claim 3 rejection.

Re claim 36, as per claim 4 rejection.

Re claim 37, as per claim 5 rejection.

Re claim 38, as per claim 7 rejection.

Re claim 39, as per claim 8 rejection.

Re claim 41, as per claim 10 rejection.

Re claim 42 and 43, as per rejections of claims 11 and 12.

Re claim 46, a flat carry surface is shown.

Re claim 47, as per claim 15 rejection.

Claims 9, 13, 16, 24, 28, 31, 40, 44, 45 and 48 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bartkowiak (U.S. Patent 5,069,331) shows a link chain that appears to anticipate at least claim 1.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Bidwell whose telephone number is (571)272-6910. The examiner can normally be reached on Tues.-Fri. from 6:30 to 4:00. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Mondays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene O. Crawford, can be reached on 517-272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10-11-2005

JRB

James R. Bidwell
JAMES R. BIDWELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 3651
10/11/05